

## Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council

### Meeting Minutes – Aug 5, 2010

Attending: Janice Bourque, Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Scott Gordon, Bob Staulo Alderman John Rice

Absent: Paul Gilbert, Rodney Barker, Barbara Darnell, Groot Gregory, Peter Meyer, Alderman Dick Blazar

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Janice Bourque called the meeting to order at 8:10pm

- Reviewed and approved minutes from previous meeting of 7/1/10.
- **Treasurer's report:** Total annual revenues brought in \$8276.16 including \$3000 from Whole Foods and \$5398 from Village Day. Allocated expenses include \$3000 Whole foods bridge flower project (Justine); \$861.66 T-shirts; \$62.00 phone; \$2000 Area Council Newsletter. Net available cash is approx. \$2500 with reserve of \$700 for annual phone costs which leaves \$1500 available balance.
- Scott agreed to draw up a budget for the next meeting in September.
- **Skating Rink:** Whole Foods has agreed to provide a day in September to raise sponsorship funds via purchases for the skating rink. It is anticipated that this may raise approx. \$2000. Costs last year were about \$1000. Barbara previously agreed to work a table at Whole Foods on that day. John Rice indicated Whole Foods would contact us. Follow up is required.
- **Bridge flower project:** Janice will contact Justine regarding progress on the project. It is our understanding that Whole Foods wishes to provide flowers annually for the bridge flower boxes. All of the newspaper boxes will need to be relocated and any enhancements will need to allow for sidewalk accessibility.
- **Annual Meeting:** It was discussed and decided that all of the aldermen along with the Mayor would be invited to our Annual Meeting. Date to be in early November. Srdj to check in with John on Hyde availability and other locations. Topics will include: Crystal Lake, Dog Park, Sidewalk Snow shoveling, Needham St, Walnut St and Area Council creation. The concept is to provide the community with a factual update on the respective topic. One topic will be assigned to an aldermen with 10 minutes per topic. The Q&A would occur at the very end after all of the presentations and would allow for additional thoughts and comments from the audience and the other aldermen. Janice will invite all of the aldermen to learn of their interest and willingness to participate.
- **Walnut St:** Srdj will invite Tom Daly and Jerry Freeman to the next September meeting to discuss the current status of Walnut St. reconstruction.
- **Haunted House:** John Rice cannot oversee the Haunted House due to aldermanic commitments this year and needs the area council to step up and lead the effort. Scott Gordon willing to help but needs direction and others who have the ability to engage and reach out to people in the community. Group explored partnering with Fantastic Fridays and have them work with us to replace a Friday "gathering" with the Haunted House. John indicate that would not work as all of the fantastic Friday volunteers are paid for their efforts.
  - Haunted House Committee: Scott, Paul, Bob, Barbara?, Kevin, Nina (advice from John)

- Set up: takes all day on Saturday and Sunday; event is 6-8pm with breakdown immediately after. It takes 10-15 volunteers to clean up.
- Make up: Toni Bryan & Michele Mische
- Creative director: Kevin Osborne (Hyde board)
- Nina Berk: outreach and storyline
- Decorations: challenge with drape; will need to improve
- Volunteers: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are too young; 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders need support from high school kids and adults (tire and give up).
  - Scott to reach out to Newton North and South Community service and drama groups to see if kids can participate. Group voted and approved a potential donation of \$250 to the drama club if they would provide actors.
  - Srdj to reach out to PTO's
  - Bob to reach out to Youth Group
- Theme: Haunted Rock & Roll?
- Drape: Scott and Paul and John to determine how to obtain from Freeman Decorating as John has the relationship.
- Pipe: in Hyde closet; concerns over setup and stability last year; Scott to discuss and work with Paul on Layout and whether PVC or metal is best.
- Organization: meeting needs to be organized in September ASAP to begin process.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.